

VIP Volunteers in Parks



National Park Service Volunteer Opportunities

Philadelphia locations:

Independence National Historical Park
143 S. 3rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Home of the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, the park administers more than two dozen historic sites and buildings including the site of Benjamin Franklin's home, a portrait gallery, historic homes, and a Visitor Center.

Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site
532 N. Seventh Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

The internationally known literary figure Edgar Allan Poe lived here from 1843-44. Poe published some of his most famous tales and gained commercial success while living in Philadelphia.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial
301 Pine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The Society Hill home of the Polish patriot and engineer whose contributions to the American Revolution include the design of the fortifications at West Point, New York.

Deshler-Morris House
5442 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Also known as the "Germantown White House", President Washington held cabinet meetings here while the capital of Philadelphia was suffering a devastating yellow fever epidemic in the fall of 1793. Washington returned to the house with his family the following summer.

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
National Historical Site
Christopher Columbus Boulevard and
Washington Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19147

The oldest church building in Pennsylvania, Old Swedes' Church was completed in 1700 for its congregation of Swedish settlers. The cemetery contains the remains of Revolutionary War patriots.

How to Apply:

- 🔑 Select a volunteer opportunity that appeals to you. Determine if you can commit to volunteering at least eight hours a month.
- 🔑 Contact the Independence NHP Volunteer Coordinator at **(215) 597-1293** or <http://www.nps.gov/inde> for information and volunteer application forms.
- 🔑 When your application is processed, you will be contacted for an interview.
- 🔑 After placement, you will receive information about the dates for orientation. For park guide positions, classes are generally scheduled twice a year.

VIP, Len Mellman
(Park Guide)



VIP, Gwen Allen
(Park Archivist)

Volunteer Positions:

Guide

Conduct independent historical research to develop and present interpretive talks and tours to the public.

Gardener

Plant, weed, prune, and mulch gardens in the park. Gardens include flowers, vegetables, heirloom roses, and a bird sanctuary.

Office Clerk

Perform a variety of clerical tasks at park headquarters. Duties range from general office work to receptionist desk coverage.

Researcher

Trace a history of a collection of paintings and prepare accession record materials or survey the library for historic events then create a file system for the project.

Archivist

Organize, index, inventory, label and caption photos, slides, drawings and other research materials.

Computer Assistant

Create data bases or assist with computer hardware/software needs.

Seamstress

Research 18th and early 19th century household linen-making techniques, then sew markings onto reproduction table and bed linens.

Alarm Technician

Inventory and test alarms and smoke detectors throughout the park.

Architectural Technician

Organize, label and inventory slides, photographs and books from the park's historical architecture collection.

Group Projects


Special projects may be arranged for organized groups at various locations throughout Independence NHP. They may be full or half-day projects; groups of 10 or more are preferred. Typical projects are weeding, trash pick-up, fence painting, and leaf removal. Please call to discuss possibilities and allow at least three weeks notice for planning.



VIP, Betty Laufer
(Park Guide)



VIPs, Jane Newcomer, Wilma Crane,
Edie Schaffzin, Kinny Schmidt
(Park Gardeners)

Job and Location		Guide/ Interpreter	Gardener	Office Clerk	Researcher	Archivist	Computer Assistant	Seamstress	Architectural Technician	Alarm Technician	Group Projects
Independence National Historical Park		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kosciuszko National Memorial		✓									
Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site		✓	✓								
Deshler-Morris House		✓	✓								✓
Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site		✓	✓								✓